Governments for various activities aimed at wildlife conservation including control of poaching.

6. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

(c) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has not dealt with any case in Assam independently. There have been joint operations with the Assam Forest Department. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is involved in collection of intelligence which is shared with the Forest Department. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau also provides technical and legal assistance to the Assam Forest Department. Joint operation of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and Assam Forest Department on 20.03.2009 has resulted in seizure of two leopard skins, one leopard cub skin, three pangolin skins, one pigmy hog cub skin, one clawless otter, three clouded leopards skins, eight otter skins, one bear cub skin, one sambhar skin, four kg leopard bones and 300 gms elephant tusk at Barpetta.

(d) Important cases of poaching and seizure of wildlife in National Parks of Assam as per the information provided by the State Government in the current year are as follows:—

(a) **Kaziranga National Park**: 12 Rhino were poached and 22 poachers were arrested till October, 2009.

(b) **Manas National Park**: Seizure of following has been made- Leopard skin-2 nos seized, Pangolia Skin-1 no, Pigmy Hog Skin-1 no, Clawless otter-1 no, Clouded Leopard skin-3 nos, Rhino skin-1 piece, Tiger teeth-4 nos, Tiger milk-150 gms., Sloth bear bone-5 kg, sloth bear skin-1 no, Elephant tusk-1 piece, Sambhar tusk-1 no, Hog deer skin- 1 no.

(c) Nameri National Park where meat of one Sambhar deer was seized.

Redressal measures taken to control wildlife crimes in National Parks in Assam are as follows:—

(a) Intelligence network has been strengthened further.

(b) Infrastructure and logistics support are being strengthened.

(c) District level Wildlife Coordination Committees have been constituted for effective coordination and control of poaching.

(d) Vacancies of the front line staff are being filled up.

(e) Additional armed personnels have been engaged in all the National Parks.

Pollution in Ganga

†1078. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government has spent during last ten years for making the river

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Ganga pollution free alongwith the details of improvement in pollution level during the said period; and

(b) the details of the additional measures being taken by Government for making the Ganga water pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga to acceptable standards. Various pollution abatement works like Interception and Diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works, etc., were taken up. GAP Phase-II which covered the tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, besides Ganga, was approved in stages from 1993-1996. GAP Phase-II was merged with the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in December, 1996. An expenditure of Rs. 837.40 crore has been incurred for river Ganga, and a sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million liters per day (mld) has been created so far under both the phases of the Plan. During the period 1999-2000 to 2008-2009, an expenditure of Rs. 364.75 crore has been incurred.

Water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions such as, IIT, Kanpur, BHEL, Patna University, etc. indicates that, water quality of the river Ganga conforms to the prescribed standards in terms of key indicators, namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at most of the locations, except in the stretch between Kannauj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. However, the levels of fecal coliforms are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of monitoring stations along the river Ganga.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other Central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State schemes.

The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 20th February, 2009 as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for conservation of the Ganga River. The Authority has both regulatory and developmental functions. Action has been initiated for preparation of a comprehensive Ganga river basin management plan which will form the basis for formulation of projects. The Central Government has allocated Rs. 250 crore in the budget of the year 2009-10 for NGRBA. States have been requested to prepare priority projects for critical pollution hotspots and major towns on Ganga and fast track the implementation of ongoing projects.